

# TRUANT BOYS ESCAPE SEA DEATH

## Heroism Saves Buddy

A tempting sea brought terror and near-death to eight boys playing hooky from school when one of them defied the violent surf and nearly drowned in the attempt. He was rescued by the others at the risk of their lives.

The boys, playing hooky from North Torrance high school Monday headed for a swim at Bluff Cove, Palos Verdes Estates.

While the others decided that the water was too cold and the sea too rough, one of them, James Fleming, 16, of 4717 Jacques st., Torrance, rushed defiantly into the water.

Fleming apparently suffered a cramp about 25 to 30 yards out from shore in the 52 degree water and a rip tide threatened to carry him off to sea.

### Rushes After Buddy

His buddies, standing at the top of the 300-foot cliff, looked on in terror. First to make a desperate attempt to save Fleming was Walter Lee, 16, of 4617 Jacques st. Lee clambered down the cliff, undressing as he went along and then plunged in after Fleming.

Lee thought that Fleming was already dead when he got there but he continued to struggle toward shore with him. In the attempt, both were hurled against a protruding rock. Lee received injuries to his left leg and side.

Working with Lee was Dick McMullin, 16, of 21817 Anza ave., who, together with Roger McLaughlin, 14, of 22708 LaLeene ave., took over when Lee was injured.

### Eight-Foot Waves

Battling eight-foot high breakers, they and their other companions managed to get the unconscious Fleming to shore.

Spectators, meanwhile, had summoned life guards who administered artificial respiration for almost an hour until the arrival of a helicopter which carried Fleming to the top of the 300-foot cliff. He was whisked away to Harbor General hospital.

He was taken off the critical list yesterday, according to hospital officials, and was said to be in "good" condition with no serious injuries, suffering mostly from shock.

The teenagers said they had come to the beach to hunt abalone. Others included Bruce Kilgore, 15, of 22704 Earl st.; Melvin Dueshing, 17, of 22025 Anza ave.; Kenneth Hession, 15, of 3139 W. 180th st.; and Terry Hughes, 14, of 4804 Merrill st.

It was reported that the boys will have to make up the time lost at school.

## Union Oil Asked to Fix Street

A letter requesting that the Union Oil company resurface 239th street between Arlington and Crenshaw was ordered sent by the City Council Tuesday night.

This action was taken after residents complained that the company has laid pipes along the street but has not put the street back in proper order.

No further permits for pipe laying along 239th street will be issued without the consent of the council, City Manager Stevens indicated.



PUTTING THEIR HEADS TOGETHER... Making plans for an all-out March of Dimes drive sponsored locally by Epsilon Sigma are Mrs. Enid Runsted, president; Postmaster

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## Consolidation Issue Goes on Ballot, City Council Splits 3-2

### Estimated Population Now 71,371

Nearly 4000 more residents have moved to Torrance since the special census in September, according to reports of the County Regional Planning Commission.

County estimates as of January 1, 1956 place Torrance's population at 71,371. The special census credited Torrance with a population of 67,459 as of September 17.

Torrance is growing at a rate of 1000 new residents a month. At that rate it is anticipated that Torrance will have a population of 100,000 by January 1, 1958.

Torrance is expected to be the third largest city in the county by 1960, passed only by Los Angeles and Long Beach.

### SEVEN NEW SIGNALS PROPOSED

While highway officials could not give a definite date as to when signals will be installed along Hawthorne avenue, A. L. Himmelock, traffic engineer for the California Division of Highways, indicated that signals may be expected this year.

A traffic survey was recently completed and demands by mothers of Meadow park school children, city and school officials, as well as Torrance Press publicity helped expedite state action.

Traffic signals have been recommended along Hawthorne avenue at 238th street, Lomita boulevard, 230th street, 186th street, and 177th street.

Signals have also been recommended for Pacific Coast highway at Calle Mayor and for 174th street and Yukon.

The five Hawthorne signals will cost the city about \$22,000. Total cost of all signals will come to about \$33,000 for the city, which shares the burden on a 50-50 basis with the state.

### Boy Struck Near Home

A 2½-year-old boy is still on the critical list after having suffered major injuries when hit by a car near his home last week Wednesday.

In critical condition with head injuries at Harbor General hospital is Phillip Nichols of 4712 Laurette st. The boy was struck by a car driven by Marilyn Kathleen Biggs, 27, of 22129 Palos Verdes blvd., according to police. She was not cited.

### FLEETWOOD WILL HEAD DEMOCRATS



THURVIN FLEETWOOD heads Democrats

### Mayor Seeks Rose Float Volunteers

Mayor Albert Isen this week issued a call for volunteers who will act as a permanent Rose Bowl float committee.

This action follows previous action asking that Torrance be represented from now on in the Rose Parade.

The mayor asked that individuals interested in working out the details of such a program get in touch with him. The city manager in the meantime has been asked to inquire about a space for Torrance in the parade.

### Curfew Will Be Enforced After Movies

Juveniles who are found loitering around the theater in downtown Torrance after the evening performance from now on will be dealt with strictly and picked up for violation of the curfew, according to Sgt. D. C. Cook, of the Torrance Police Department's juvenile bureau.

Sgt. Cook warned parents that they should make arrangements to pick up their youngsters as soon as the movie is out if they don't want to pick them up at the police station.

"There is a 10 o'clock curfew," Sgt. Cook said, "and too many parents do not make arrangements to find out when the picture is over in order to pick up their youngsters."



Clara A. Conner, general chairman; and Mrs. Dorothy Peters, corresponding secretary. They met Tuesday with other volunteers to plan the Mothers March for January 31.—Press Photo.

At a meeting held in the patio of the Higgins Brick company Thursday evening, January 12, the Torrance Democrats had an election of officers.

Those elected to serve for the current year were Thurvin Fleetwood, president; Richard Eakin, vice-president; Albert Kirkpatrick, secretary; Duard Pickett, treasurer; Muri Reeves, Frank Gately, Jack Huffman, as members of the executive board, and Mrs. Ruth Vaughn as recording secretary.

It is planned to have a joint installation with the other Democratic clubs of the 68th Assembly District. This affair is to be a dinner dance to be held sometime in the coming month. The date will be announced when the plans are completed.

This is a dynamic group of officers and the political impact will be felt on this election year. Some of this group are serving for a second term as a result of the marvelous job they have done of keeping interest alive in the past non election year.

### Council Will Study Civil Service Law

Not wishing to act hurriedly on a streamlined civil service ordinance, the City Council decided Tuesday night not to try to rush one through in order to still get it on the April ballot.

Instead, the council assured members of the Firefighters association that they would give full consideration to their proposed ordinance as well as to the one being prepared by the Civil Service Commission.

It was suggested that the council then act on the type of ordinance they consider best and, if necessary, place the matter before the voters at a later time.

### Plan Stricter Lot Split Requirements

A proposal which would give more control over improvements on lot splits has been suggested by Assistant City Attorney Stan Remelmeier and will be taken under advisement by the Planning Commission, according to City Engineer Ronald Bishop.

The underlying idea is to protect potential homeowners who plan to purchase homes built on split lots.

"There is a greater chance that individuals building on a split lot will try to get around the stricter subdivision requirements," Bishop said. "The proposed legislation intends to make some of the subdivision requirements also applicable to lot splits."

### Elections Held by Reservists

Harold (Bud) Walsh was elected president of the Torrance Police Reserves at the group's January meeting. Elected to serve with him were Charles Cole, vice-president, and Jerry Alter, secretary-treasurer.

They take over the offices of Bill King, Steve Schmidt and Bill Fulton. Walsh announced that he has arranged for a new police training program to start next month under the direction of the regular department.

The new meeting place is now the old fire station at Marcelina and Cravens aves. Meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month.

### 9 CHARTER CHANGES PROPOSED

The most controversial of the issues proposed for the April ballot—that of consolidating the City Council and School Board elections—will now appear on the ballot, according to action taken by the City Council Tuesday night.

Councilman Willys Blount, absent last week when a vote was taken and the council split 2-2, cast the deciding vote Tuesday in favor of placing the matter on the ballot.

Blount stated that the people of Torrance should be given all the facts and that they should be the ones to decide the issue.

The charter amendment was originally proposed by Councilman Victor Benstead. Mayor Albert Isen voted with Benstead and Blount. Opposed were Councilmen Mervin M. Schwab and Nick Drale.

Those who have argued in favor of consolidating the elections have maintained primarily that present School Board elections are not representative enough.

Opponents of consolidation have argued that School Board elections should be "kept out of politics."

A total of nine amendments were approved for placing on the April ballot.

Proposed Amendments: Except for the consolidation issue, none of the others seemed controversial. They include: 1) Pay for councilmen (\$100 a month, plus expenses). They receive expenses at present but no pay.

2) Assistant city attorney shall come under the civil service laws. 3) Contracts of more than \$2000 shall go to bid. (Present minimum is \$1000).

4) Regulations involving legal actions against city. 5) Franchises—none to be granted without reserving to the city adequate compensation for the privilege conferred.

6) Adoption of ordinances and resolutions. Resolutions involving finances and general ordinances must be passed by a 3/5 vote.

7) City clerk and director of finance. Proposal for a new position, that of director of finance. Explains the duties of each. 8) City treasurer. Duties of treasurer and director of finance defined.

9) Consolidation—election of City Council and School Board at one time instead of at separate times.

### Sea Scout Wounded By Bullet

A 14-year-old boy's three fingers were saved this week following surgery as an aftermath of a shooting accident late Saturday afternoon at the Torrance Police Firing Range.

A bullet from a .22 caliber gun which discharged accidentally while the boy was loading it passed through three fingers of the left hand of Larry Deering, 14, of 11226 S. Raymond.

Deering, a Sea Scout, was on the firing line when the accident occurred. The scouts were under the supervision of Scoutmaster D. W. Ferguson.

The boy was taken to Torrance Emergency Medical.

Declaration of candidacy to the County Superintendent of Schools is Wednesday, April 18, 5 p.m. Declarations must actually be in the office at that time. A postmark will not be recognized.

Anyone who is a registered voter and lives in the city of Torrance is eligible to run for this office.

STUDY HEART PROGRAM... Grayce Fleming, R. N., of the Los Angeles Artery bank shows tray of human arteries to Dr. J. H. Hull, center, and Dr. Rollin Smith, right, leaders of the February Heart Fund campaign for the Torrance area during their tour of Community Heart program installations at Good Samaritan hospital.

The drive leaders visited the Heart kitchen, work classification unit, and heart clinics during their tour. The Heart association preserves arteries in hermetically sealed tubes, shown in the picture, ready for use.

### Petitions Submitted For Annexation Of Victor Area

Petitions requesting the annexation of the Victor area to Torrance were accepted by the City Council Tuesday night.

An April election will be possible if the petitions have the legally required number of signatures which will be tested by the city clerk. Petitions carry 65 signatures, representing 36 per cent of the registered voters, according to George Powell, planning director.

The minimum number of signatures required is 25 per cent.

At the request of the residents, the council has asked that the problem of the school district be excluded from the election since some of the residents appear to be against changing school districts.

The area is now part of the Redondo Beach elementary and South Bay Union high school district.

Residents are also anxious to be assured that the zoning remain M-1, one spokesman indicated.

The Torrance boundaries are Hawthorne ave., Torrance and Del Amo blvys.

The plane skidded across Anza ave. but did not burn. A wing of the plane landed on the roof of a house. None of the occupants were hurt.

### Youths Crash In Arizona, Wanted Here

Hold on suspicion of transporting a stolen car across a state line are two Lomita youths who crashed in Arizona last week, according to police.

They are also wanted for asserted participation in the forcible rape of two Long Beach sisters, aged 15 and 16.

Nabbed near Yuma were John M. Ginter, 18, of 25351 Oak street, and a 16-year-old companion.

A third suspect in the alleged attack, James Ray Morris, 18, of 1429 West 215th street, is free on \$1000 bail and faces preliminary hearing on charges of forcible rape in Compton Municipal court, January 18.

Residents complained of suspicious loitering and at least one burglary.

They also asked the council for help in getting telephone service from the General Telephone company for the area.

### Lomita C of C Installation

Officers of the Lomita Chamber of Commerce will be installed at a dinner meeting Thursday, January 26, at 7:30 p.m. in the Wayfarer's restaurant, 2230 Pacific Coast highway.

Reservations may be made by calling DA 6-6378. Succeeding Dave Wilkinson as president will be William C. Cowan.

### Babies Hurt In Two-Car Crash

Receiving multiple cuts and bruises in a two-car collision was Mrs. Ellard Schuett, of 22723 Draile drive and her two daughters, Nancy, 21 months, and Linda, 8 months.

The accident occurred Saturday at Hawthorne avenue and Torrance boulevard.

Driver of the other car was B. F. Buchanan, of 931 North Wilmington avenue.

All were treated at Torrance Emergency Medical.

Declaration of candidacy may be picked up as of January 26 in the city clerk's office, City Hall, corner Cravens and El Prado.

Last day to file is 12 o'clock noon, February 16. Declarations must bear the signatures of 5-10 registered voters living within the city of Torrance.

Candidates must designate their professions on the ballot. These professions must be the same as those entered on their registration certificate. If individuals have changed profession, they may re-register.

### PLANE HITS POWER LINE, TWO KILLED

Two men were killed when their light plane crashed into power lines while they were trying to land at Los Angeles International airport last week Thursday.

Pilot Earl W. Strickland, 33, of 22411 Linda dr., Seaside Ranchos, died in the accident while his passenger, Thomas Arthur McNeil, 27, of Lomita, died the following day of injuries received in the crash.

McNeil lived at the Kerna Trailer Villa in Lomita. He was employed by the Torrance Municipal Airport. He has no known relatives in this area.

Strickland is survived by his wife, Donna Jane; a son, Earl W. Jr., 3; and a daughter, Debra Lee, 5; his mother, Mrs. Stella May; and a brother, Hartwell Strickland, both of Jacksonville, Fla.; and a brother, L. G. E. Strickland, of Oceanside.

The plane skidded across Anza ave. but did not burn. A wing of the plane landed on the roof of a house. None of the occupants were hurt.

The plane, which took off from the Torrance airport shortly before the fatal accident, was owned by McNeil.

### She Says Press Is Terrific!

We're blushing all over with modesty but the truth is... we're terrific!

That's what Mrs. John Frederick of 1533 West 220th street maintains fervently and adamantly.

It all started over the small classified ad which she ran in the Torrance Press:

SMALL HOUSE & GARAGE \$45 No children, no pets. FA. 8-2371

"I had TERRIFIC results! The phone started ringing... ringing... ringing early Thursday. I rented the house immediately. I have better results in the Torrance Press than in any other local paper and I always tell my friends to use the Press... I really do!"

That's what we're telling our friends and readers also. So give us a little jingle... FA. 8-2345. You'll be so happy you did.

## Filing Deadlines Told for Council, School Elections

Potential candidates for three seats on the Board of Education and the City Council may start thinking now about filing their declaration of candidacy.

Three seats will be contested in the school election to be held in May. Completing their term of office will be Mrs. Grace Wright, Darwin Parish, and Joe Arnold.

Deadline for returning their declaration of candidacy to the County Superintendent of Schools is Wednesday, April 18, 5 p.m. Declarations must actually be in the office at that time. A postmark will not be recognized.

Anyone who is a registered voter and lives in the city of Torrance is eligible to run for this office.

Candidates may pick forms from Warren Hamilton, director of special services, Torrance Unified School District, 2335 Plaza del Amo, or from the